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# Facts About the Missouri Solid Waste Disposal Law

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Solid Waste Management Program fact sheet

7/2006

## Items banned from landfills and what to do with them

In order to conserve landfill space, promote recycling and reduce the chance of environmental contamination, several items have been banned from landfills. They include major appliances, whole tires, oil and lead-acid batteries. The law requires changes in the way we dispose of waste. It is an opportunity for all Missourians to unite at the grass roots level to ensure a healthy environment for future generations.

## What to do with major appliances

Major appliances banned from landfills include refrigerators, freezers, clothes washers and dryers, stoves, ovens, microwaves, dishwashers, trash compactors, water heaters and other white goods.

The first step in disposing of a major appliance, or any product, should be taken when you buy the product. When buying a refrigerator or other appliance, ask the retailer if the store or the distributor will take it back when its life span ends. Ask if they will take your old appliance, too. This gets consumers and manufacturers to consider disposing of the product before it becomes a problem and encourages manufacturers to begin recycling.

If the appliance still works, consider selling it or donating it to a charitable organization such as the Salvation Army. Otherwise, contact scrap metal collection centers or other recycling centers in your area and ask if they take major appliances. Some landfill operations also have storage areas for major appliances and charge a small fee for accepting them.

For more information on possible locations to bring your major appliance, contact the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries at (314) 231-6077.

## What to do with waste tires

When you buy new tires, make certain the retailer will take your old tires. If the dealer will not take them, consider buying from another dealer. If this is not an option or if you are not buying tires, another arrangement will have to be made for proper disposal.

In some areas, waste tire storage sites accept waste tires. For more information on where to bring waste tires in your area, contact local tire dealers. Retailers and storage sites accepting waste tires may charge a fee to cover disposal costs.

## What to do with waste oil

Waste oil including lubricating oil, transmission oil, transformer oil, hydraulic oil, fuel oil and heavy viscosity oil can no longer go to landfills.

If a service station or quick change business changes your oil, they will dispose of your oil and oil filter for you. If you change your own oil, ask retailers where you buy oil if they will take your

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old oil. Some retailers, services stations and quick change businesses accept oil even if you do not make a purchase.

Oil filters are not prohibited from landfills if they have been well drained. To do this, turn the filter upside down and let it drain into a pan or jug for at least 24 hours. Oil drained from the filter should be collected and recycled to prevent groundwater contamination.

For more information on where to bring your waste oil, contact the retailer where you purchase oil.

### **What to do with lead-acid batteries**

Retailers are required by law to accept a used lead-acid battery in exchange a for newly purchased battery. Lead acid batteries, those used in cars, boats and other vehicles, contain sulfuric acid that reacts with lead and lead oxide to generate electricity. If you want to get rid of a battery without buying a new one, ask a retailer near you if they will accept it.

For additional information on collection or disposal of lead-acid batteries, contact the Association of Battery Recyclers at (813)-626-6151.

### **For more information**

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